

House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I would say to my colleague from Ohio that President Clinton of his party supported a lot of this free trade. In fact, President Clinton was very active in getting passed in previous Congresses many of these free trade agreements that the gentleman from Ohio is complaining about. So I think it is just a question of whether one is for free trade or not. I am for fair trade not free trade.

But, Mr. Speaker, I am here to talk about a deficit that is continuing quite dramatically, and now all of us are faced with a tough task of balancing the budget the next 5 years, and the President is committed to that.

One of the reasons this budget is in a deficit mode is because of the recession that President Bush inherited; also what happened on 9/11. It changed this country's perspective completely and, of course, with it our efforts to secure our homeland borders and security within our buildings. So, obviously, we have had to expend extra money to do that; and the President rightly did so and Congress agreed to reduce taxes so we could help the economy.

Obviously, there is no quick fix for the deficit. However, we must act decisively today in the budget process so that we do not put undue burden on future generations.

I believe that Members of Congress realize how accountability works. We want to support reduced spending around here, and that is why I am introducing a bill this day to underscore accountability that will connect all of us here in Congress with the rest of the country.

Year in and year out, we all have to explain to our constituents why we automatically receive a pay raise regardless of the deficit that occurs here in Congress. So why not have a bill simply to say that no automatic pay adjustments will be made for Members of Congress in the year following a fiscal year in which there is a Federal budget deficit? Something very simple. My bill, the Deficit Accountability Act of 2004, basically says that, again, no automatic pay adjustments are made for us here in Congress unless we balance the budget.

If this Congress can work together, I think we can control spending. We must lead by example, and I believe this simple measure could do just that. The bill would provide a real-world incentive for Members of Congress to curtail wasteful and abusive spending.

So it is a good-faith measure, Mr. Speaker. It is in a small way just symbolic, but I think our constituents would appreciate that, and that is why I am offering this bill today.

All of us have returned from our respective retreats, the Democrats and Republicans, and all of us, of course, are resolved to have a tougher stance

on spending and try to balance the budget. There has been some talk again about having a line item veto. I would like to see that effort reenergized, re-enacted; and I believe now is the time to support the shift in this fiscal environment towards a balanced budget.

Momentum is building in this House to write a congressional budget resolution that would freeze outright non-defense, nonhomeland security appropriations. Furthermore, many Members have introduced legislation that seeks to make deep cuts in the discretionary spending of the various departments. These departments have lots of accountability problems. There is waste and fraud in some of these Departments. The President's budget proposal makes a strong effort to address these problems.

Mr. Speaker, I just bring to my colleagues' attention a recent GAO report that showed that the collective departments, across the board every department in the budget reported a staggering \$17.3 billion in unreconciled transactions in 2002. That is, to put it bluntly, we have lost \$17 billion. It is unaccounted for. I know all Members will agree that these lost funds are staggering, and something must be done to get to the bottom of this, and obviously in this budget process we should do this.

At this time, we clearly have an opportunity to curtail wasteful spending and at the same time support our President as he seeks to balance the budget in the next 5 years. I believe starting today this body can make a statement of how we want spending in this Congress to proceed and also how to pay ourselves in the event we have a deficit. Mr. Speaker, we must draw a line on spending, and hopefully we can now remember it is the American taxpayers who occupy the most prominent position at the negotiating table here in Washington.

THE RULE OF LAW SHOULD MATTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, just for a second I would like to go over the remarks of the gentleman from Ohio where he says that the Republican administration actually promotes the outsourcing of jobs, reducing jobs here in the United States. It almost makes it sound like the Bush administration does not care about Americans.

Keep in mind, for every 100 jobs we export, we create one or two very rich Americans; and, on balance, that may be thought to be a good thing by the Bush administration.

We also have a huge half trillion dollar trade deficit.

THEFT OF DOCUMENTS FROM JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

But I want to remind my colleagues of a day back in 1972 when we had a positive trade surplus and when the Watergate headquarters of the Democratic Party was burglarized. Howard Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy went to jail for that burglary because Republicans here in Washington believed that the rule of law was more important than Republican success.

Today, a similar crime has been committed. At the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, a computer server that was jointly used by Democrats and Republicans was burglarized, and thousands of the Democrats' documents were stolen, far more than Howard Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy ever thought to steal.

A shared computer server is not an unusual thing on Capitol Hill. My Democratic colleagues need to be reminded that every e-mail we send, every e-mail we receive goes through a shared computer server, under the control ultimately of the Speaker of this House and his staff. But we Democrats here in the House do not believe that the Speaker and his staff are criminals. We believe they are honorable men and women, and so we send e-mail today just as we do every other day.

What is happening in the other body, Mr. Speaker? A small cabal has decided to burglarize documents. That is the same as what happened back in 1972, but what is more interesting is that the predominant power in the Republican party, the predominant power here in Washington, wants to protect this act of robbery.

Sure, one staffer has been fired. Now that staffer is free to obtain lucrative employment and cash gifts without having to report it. Another staffer has left, and that staffer boasts about being in control of stolen documents, stolen property. Instead of going to jail for being in possession of stolen property, he trumpets how he is going to use this property for the support of the Republican position.

The rule of law should matter. We are told, though, that the rule of law is being upheld because a couple of staffers lost their jobs. Since when is it the criminal law in this country that if one steals something the only sanction is they have to go get employment elsewhere?

We are told that this crime is not a crime because it was a shared computer server. That is a little dangerous for Democrats in the House, where every e-mail is going through a shared server under Republican control.

It is also a complete repudiation of American criminal law. If two partners share a safe deposit box or a safe, that does not mean that one can use the combination to steal all the cash and valuables that the other has put in it. It is very clear. Sharing a box does not mean one gets to steal the other person's or other entity's property. Except that is what it seems to mean in the Republican lexicon.

Burglary and robbery are reasons for people to be indicted and sent to jail. That is what happened to G. Gordon Liddy, that is what happened to Howard Hunt, and we will see whether the Republicans in control of this House and the other body, and in control of Washington and all of its agencies, will make sure that there is a criminal investigation of this theft. Stealing from a safe is wrong, even if one has been trusted with the combination.

If this does not happen, then we in the House will have to look at the additional governmental expense involved in having a separate Democratic e-mail server. Because how can we trust a Republican Party that seems to have gone from a party that puts the rule of law first to one that glorifies burglary and defends criminals?

I look forward to the indictment of those who committed robbery.

19-CENTS-A-DAY CAMPAIGN ON SCHOOL FEEDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I have come to the well of this floor many times to speak in support of the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

McGovern-Dole provides hungry children around the world at least one nutritious meal a day in a school setting. The Bush administration's own Department of Agriculture has evaluated this program and found it to be very effective at reducing child hunger, increasing academic attendance and performance, especially among girls, and strengthening community commitment to education.

The McGovern-Dole program is carried out in the field by a wide range of partners, principally through U.S. private voluntary organizations and the United Nations World Food Programme, which has a special unit specializing in school feeding programs.

Currently, the World Food Programme, or WFP, carries out McGovern-Dole-supported school feeding programs in Bhutan, Bolivia, Cambodia, Cameroon, the Ivory Coast, Ghana, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Tanzania and Uganda. But this is just part of WFP's worldwide effort in the area of school feeding, which reaches literally every corner of the world.

Mr. Speaker, over 840 million people do not have enough food to eat on a daily basis. Three hundred million of these are children, who go to sleep every night without enough food to eat. Today, and every day, 24,000 people will die because of hunger and its ugly effects. This is more than HIV and AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined, although hunger and disease are closely intertwined.

In short, between 8 and 10 million people die needlessly every year because of hunger and malnutrition.

Last year, the World Health Organization listed the top 10 health risks around the world. The number one risk is not cancer or HIV/AIDS or heart disease. It is not war or armed conflict or accidents. The number one health risk in the world is simply the lack of food.

In an effort to reach out to students and communities throughout the United States, the World Food Programme has launched a campaign to raise money and awareness about the hunger and educational needs of children in Third World countries.

This campaign will help shine a light on what life is like for the more than 300 million children who daily endure, suffer and die from hunger. Nearly half of these children, mainly girls, do not go to school. The campaign will give students in communities a simple yet concrete way to make a difference in these children's futures.

The campaign is called the 19-Cents-a-Day Campaign depicted in this poster here. Why 19 cents? Because 19 cents is the average daily cost to feed a child in a school setting.

Think about this for a moment, Mr. Speaker. Nineteen cents a day, a dime, a nickel and four pennies, that is half the cost of a first-class stamp. For about the cost of one Big Mac, a soda and an order of fries each month, we can feed a child for an entire school year.

Mr. Speaker, we know that one of the best steps anyone can take to reduce or escape poverty is to get an education. Offering a meal at school is a proven method of convincing poor families to send their children to school, including their daughters.

Last month, Judith Lewis, the Washington Director of WFP, traveled to her home State of Mississippi to officially launch the 19-Cents-a-Day Campaign. Mississippi is a place that knows something about hunger. Last year, over 392,000 Mississippi children received free or reduced school lunches. I am happy to report the response from the high school students in Brandon, Mississippi, was overwhelmingly positive, raising hundreds of dollars for WFP school feeding programs.

The 19-Cents-a-Day Campaign is a great way to talk about child hunger, both around the world and in our own congressional districts. It is a great way to raise awareness and funds and engage our own students and communities in the fight against hunger abroad and here at home.

□ 1300

In the weeks to come, the campaign will be launched in high schools in Illinois, North Carolina, and California. I hope to launch a similar campaign in Massachusetts, my home State. I encourage my colleagues to contact the World Food Program to find out more about the 19 Cents a Day Campaign and how more students and communities can become involved.

Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe we can end hunger among children, both here in the United States and around the world. It only takes the time, commitment, and political will to do so.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord, did Your ancient seer David see people gathered on Capitol Hill when he asked: "Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in the Lord's awesome presence?"

Surely the Members of Congress know the answer to this question as did David's own: "Those with clean hands and pure hearts. Those who do not desire worthless things or have never taken an oath only to deceive their neighbor."

Lord, this great Nation and its fullness, the whole world and all its people are Yours. Renew Your blessings upon us today and make us humble enough to acknowledge that all is Your gift.

So we enter into Your presence to praise You now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MICHAUD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives: